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SUBJECT: NAS MONTHLY REPORT, APRIL 2008

SUMMARY

¶11. (U) The key developments in April 2008:
** As of April 30, CORAH has eradicated a total of 3,404 hectares of coca.

** In first-ever raid of an opium laboratory, police seized 100 kg of opium latex and 400 grams of morphine.

** Heavy rains slow preparations for CORAH's move to the Aucayacu; eradication start date pushed to mid June.

** On April 4, the PNP seized a C-206 aircraft that was landing on a clandestine runway in the Region of Puno.

** Rain delays the move of UH-2 and MI-17 helicopter operations to Tingo Maria to support eradication.

** DIRANDRO is deploying 871 new police graduates among the 94 Anti-Drug units in the VRAE and the Upper Huallaga.

** UH-2 crash lands during routine training flight; no injuries but damage to helicopter requires repair in U.S.

** C-26 could not participate in Operation All-Inclusive because its sensors--FLIR and camera--are being repaired.

** B-1900D provides unscheduled transportation for Peruvian President from Ayacucho when GOP plane breaks.

** The B-1900D will relocate to Pucallpa May 13-19 to free parking space for aircraft with the Latin America/ Caribbean and European Union Summit.

** Peruvians participate in several USCBP trainings to improve interdiction capabilities at sea and airports.

** Ports of Callao and Paita will be getting camera surveillance systems to monitor activity 24/7.

** A CADCA technical assistance visit focused on developing sustainability plans for the coalitions

END SUMMARY

ERADICATION IN TOCACHE COMING TO A CLOSE

12. (U) As of April 30, CORAH has eradicated a total of 3,404 hectares of coca. Operations continue near Tocache. When CORAH starts its major eradication operations in the Aucayacu area, now slated for June 1, operations will continue in Tocache at a reduced level to eradicate residual coca. On April 3, a CORAH worker was hit by three shotgun pellets. Since the shots were fired from a distance, the wounds were superficial. The incident occurred in part because he violated procedure by going ahead of the group without security. His contract will not be renewed and his immediate supervisors was reprimanded.

HEAVY RAINS SLOW MOVE TO NEW ERADICATION SITE

13. (SBU) An unusually long rainy season has slowed progress on preparing the aviation facilities in Tingo Maria and, as a result, the CORAH base camp in the Aucayacu area is not yet usable (see Para 11). The base camp will be supported by helicopters only (the camp is in an isolated area without road access for security reasons). CORAH will begin eradication by mid-June (originally scheduled for mid-May).

14. (U) NAS met with CORAH personnel in Pucallpa during the week of April 7 to discuss budget problems created by the fall of the dollar. The unfavorable exchange rate affects the costs for all of CORAH's operations. More than ever, it is important to ensure accurate budget forecasting and to understand the impact of the diminished budget on operations and on others, e.g., the PNP and contractors.

POLICE RAID LAB AND SEIZE 400 GRAMS OF MORPHINE

15. (SBU) In San Martin, officers seized more than 100 kg of opium latex, 400 grams of morphine, and arrested six people. (Comment: According to analysts, this was the first raid ever on a laboratory in Peru found to be transforming opium latex into morphine and heroin. And, it is reportedly a matter of serious concern to the authorities, because of what it implies regarding narcotrafficking from Peru. While such "vertical integration" has long been possible, it was believed that transformation of opium latex into consumable end products was not desired by the market. End Comment)

POLICE CATCH DRUG PLANE ON CLANDESTINE LANDING STRIP

16. (U) On April 4, the PNP Special Operations group in Mazamari and DIRANDRO Intelligence personnel seized a C-206 aircraft that was landing on a clandestine runway in the province of Sandia, Region of Puno. As the plane landed, the pilot realized the PNP was waiting in ambush and tried to take off again. The police shot at the plane, fatally wounding the Bolivian pilot and injuring the Peruvian co-pilot. The operation yielded 132 kg of cocaine HCl, several hundred USD, radio communications equipment, ammunition, and a rifle. Also, in early in April, the PNP seized 1.5 metric tons of cocaine HCl in the region of Lambayeque.

17. (U) On April 18, 2006 a DIRANDRO task force eradicated an 8-hectare plot of opium poppy in the town of Celendin in Cajamarca and a 2-hectare plot in the province of Humalies, Region of Huanuco. The two operations yielded approximately 95,000 opium plants, which is the first opium poppy eradicated in CY 2008. In the VRAE, DIRANDRO destroyed 97 cocaine-base laboratories, 2 cocaine-HCl laboratories, and destroyed 2,500 kg of precursor chemicals. To date DIRANDRO has destroyed 357 cocaine-base laboratories and seized 7,536 kg of cocaine base, 4,632 kg of cocaine HCl, and 7,536 tons of chemical precursors.

18. (U) DIRANDRO will deploy the 871 new police graduates among the 94 existing Anti-Drug and Intelligence units in the VRAE and the Huallaga River valleys. There are now four PNP-NAS Police pre-Academies: Mazamari, Ayacucho, Santa

Lucia, and Ayacucho, which have enrolled 782 students from the local communities to begin a nine-month, academic preparation for taking the Police Academy entrance exam.

HEAVY RAINS DELAY WORK ON AVIATION SITE IN TINGO MARIA

¶9. (U) Preparations continue for shifting UH-2 and MI-17 helicopter operations from Santa Lucia to Tingo Maria, which will support eradication operations in the Aucayacu area of San Martin. Since eradication is expected to be opposed by the local cocalero organizations and the Shining Path narco-terrorists, minor construction is being done to improve perimeter security and the ramp area for UH-2 and MI-17 helicopters. Unfortunately, construction has been hampered by the inordinately long rainy season. Eradication operations were originally scheduled to start on May 15, but CORAH's move to the base camp cannot be done until aviation can supply the base. The base camp will be totally supplied by air. The base camp is now scheduled to open on June 1--after aviation operations move to Tingo Maria--and eradication would start about a week later. NAS plus the RSO and the Peruvian Aviation Police are regularly reviewing progress and security considerations. Meetings were held with the local PNP and Peruvian Army representatives.

UH-2 LANDING ACCIDENT REQUIRES REPAIR IN THE U.S.

¶10. (U) During a routine training flight in Santa Lucia, a UH-2 had a landing accident. Damage was confined to the rear skid tubes and the aft fuselage section. INL/A appointed an accident investigation board that has completed its work and published its findings. The UH-2 remains at Santa Lucia pending transfer to Pucallpa where it will later be transported for repair to the U.S. by a USAF C-17.

¶11. (U) NAS aviation is providing UH-2 and fuel support for an aggressive interdiction campaign in the VRAE. From the PNP bases at both Mazamari and Palmapampa, UH-2s have been transporting the Drug Police on their intelligence-driven missions. Additionally, NAS provides fuel to a PNP MI-17 that supported interdiction efforts near Puerto Maldonado in the Madre de Dios region. The results there included one light aircraft (C-206) captured at a clandestine airstrip (see Para 3).

¶12. (U) The B-1900D aircraft was used for an unscheduled mission to provide return transportation to Lima for Peruvian President Alan Garcia on April 15. President Garcia had flown to the city of Ayacucho that morning but his aircraft, a FAP C-26, experienced a generator malfunction and needed a new part from Lima. The Office of the Presidency requested support from the Aviation Police who did not have any assets available and requested NAS support. With the Ambassador's approval, the B-1900D flew to Ayacucho to transport President Garcia and his party to Lima. To its credit, the FAP transported the replacement part and mechanics to Ayacucho and had the aircraft operational shortly after the B-1900D had left with Garcia.

LAC-EU SUMMIT REQUIRES THE B-1900D TO MOVE TO PUCALLPA

¶13. (U) During the 5th Latin America/Caribbean and European Union Summit on May 13-19, the B-1900D will relocate to Pucallpa. During the Summit, the ramp space used to park the B-1900D at Lima's airport will be used for parking the aircraft of the visiting heads-of-state and delegations that will be attending the LAC-EU Summit. The FAP has authorized the B-1900D to land at the FAP base at Las Palmas in Lima so that NAS logistics operations are not seriously affected. The GOP had requested five UH-2s be moved from east of the Andes to Lima to support the Summit. The request was denied.

BOTH DIGITAL CAMERA AND FLIR FOR C-26 DOWN FOR REPAIR

¶14. (U) The FLIR on the C-26 stopped working this month. After initial troubleshooting, the decision was made to return the system to the manufacturer for repair. The system is expected to be repaired and back in Peru by mid-May. Cost of the repair is estimated at \$60,000. The repairs to the turret of the ADS digital mapping camera are complete, and the system is expected to be shipped to Lima during the first part of May. The manufacturer suspected that aerodynamic forces on the camera turret caused the damage, so an acrylic blister was designed to fit over the turret. Unfortunately, without either sensor available, the C-26s were unable to participate in DEA's Operation All-Inclusive during April.

PERUVIANS GET EXTENSIVE CUSTOMS TRAINING IN U.S.

¶15. (U) Peruvian Customs (SUNAT) and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications sent personnel for training to the US Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) International Seaport Interdiction Training (ISIT), Charleston, South Carolina; International Border Interdiction Training (IBIT), McAllen/Hidalgo, Texas; and X-ray Certification Training in Virginia. These courses will improve SUNAT's interdiction capabilities as well as provide, for the first time, an in-country x-ray certification/licensing process/system for the Peruvian Ministry of Transportation and Communication who oversee security (to include counternarcotics) at all Peruvian seaports and airports.

CAMERAS ARRIVE SOON TO SURVEIL THE AIR AND SEA PORTS

¶16. (U) NAS will be sponsoring a camera project that can monitor the entire port of Paita, 24/7, by SUNAT for the first time. The camera project for the Port of Callao is slated to be completed by May 12. This project will also provide, for the first time, the ability to monitor the entire port of Callao on a 24/7 basis. The surveillance system will serve as a countermeasure for "rip-off loads" (cocaine thrown into sea-going containers just prior to being loaded onto ships) and simultaneously assist Peruvian ports to get certified in accordance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS), which will start in June 2008 by the US Coast Guard. This certification is essential for avoiding problems for Peruvian exports going to the US.

¶17. (U) SUNAT interdiction units seized at least 816 kg of cocaine leaving Peru during April at the Lima international airport, seaports, international postal service, and through international alerts. So far this year, 4,380 kg of cocaine HCl has been seized and 3 individuals arrested. The counter-drug alert/interdiction system is working well as seen by two seizures of cocaine HCl in Charleston, SC--100 kg on April 4 and 545 kg on April 20. The alerts were issued by the Manifest Review Unit at Callao.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

¶18. (U) On April 21-25, the U.S.-based NGO Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) conducted technical assistance workshops in Lima. The two 2-day workshops were conducted, one for the five coalitions that are in their third year of development and the other for the six coalitions that started in FY08. CADCA devoted one day to visiting coalitions in their communities. The workshop participants included the three-member NGO teams facilitating the coalitions and, more importantly, five coalition leaders from each community. During this visit, CADCA focused on how to create a sustainability plan for the coalitions that takes into account the social, economic, and political realities in Peru. The community members demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of how community anti-drug coalitions work and of what is involved in identifying local and national sources of support. As local capacity grows, CADCA plans to coordinate closely with the coalitions to design technical

assistance on issues more specific to coalition building in a developing country like Peru.

MCKINLEY